

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A headband means for applying a breathing mask to a user and having a flexible band body comprising upper and lower band portions for transmitting the mask holding forces required for applying the breathing mask, wherein at least portions of the band body are made of a foamed plastic material.
2. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the band body is formed by injecting a pore-forming plastic material in a molding space of a tool.
3. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the plastic material has a skin in the area of its outer surface.
4. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the band body ~~is provided with~~includes a tensile proof insert embedded in the foamed plastic material, the tensile proof insert including a locking structure uncovered by the foamed plastic material.
5. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim 1~~4~~, ~~characterized in that the band body is provided with~~wherein the insert is a dimensionally stable insert.

6. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim ~~14~~, ~~characterized in that the band body is provided with closure means for coupling~~wherein the locking structure is structured to couple a band bracket portion in an adjustable manner.
7. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim ~~14~~, ~~characterized in that the closure means comprise a~~the locking structure which is formed integrally with the headband meansfoamed plastic material.
8. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim ~~14~~, ~~characterized in that the closure means comprise a slide means~~further comprising a slide element which can be brought in different closing positions on the ~~headband means~~locking structure.
9. (Currently Amended) The headband means according to claim ~~18~~, ~~characterized in that~~that wherein the slide means element comprises a locking mechanism ~~for locking to lock~~ the slide means element on the locking structure.

Claims 10-21 (Canceled).

22. (New) A breathing mask arrangement, comprising:
a mask; and

a headband arrangement including an upper headband portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to an upper portion of the mask and a lower headband portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to a lower portion of the mask,

at least one headband portion of the upper and lower headband portions including a longitudinal recess and a mask connector in the form of an insert embedded into the recess of the at least one headband portion, the mask connector structured to allow the mask to be attached to the headband arrangement in an adjustable manner.

23. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 22, wherein the at least one headband portion is made of a foamed plastic material.
24. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the insert is a tensile stiff insert embedded in the foamed plastic material.
25. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the tensile stiff insert includes a locking structure uncovered by the foamed plastic material.
26. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 25, further comprising a slide element structured to slidably engage the locking structure.
27. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 26, wherein the slide element includes a locking mechanism to lock the slide element on the locking structure.

28. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 26, wherein the slide element includes a bracket structured to receive a band portion that interconnects the slide element and the mask.
29. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the insert is integrally formed with the foamed plastic material.
30. (New) A breathing mask arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the foamed plastic material comprises a cushion layer adapted to the engage the user's face in use.